

## CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of playing a game comprising the steps of:
  - accepting a wager;
  - presenting a main game including the step of displaying at least a first set of cards to generate a main game hand;
  - determining the outcome of said main game comprising comparing said main game hand to a set of predetermined winning hands;
  - if said main game hand is a predetermined winning hand, awarding said player a winning amount and determining if said winning hand corresponds to a predetermined category of a bonus event and, if so, incrementing a value associated with that category of said bonus event; and
  - playing said bonus event, said play of said bonus event comprising the random selection of one of a plurality of categories of said bonus event and awarding a bonus winning according to the value associated with the selected category.
2. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said main game comprises a game of video poker and said predetermined winning hands comprise poker hands.
3. The method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said predetermined categories of said bonus event comprise one or more of said predetermined winning hands.

4. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said play of said bonus event is automatically initiated once a winning hand corresponding to each of said predetermined categories has been received.

5. The method in accordance with Claim 1 including multiplying said bonus winning by a multiplier to generate a score.

6. The method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said multiplier comprises the sum of the roll of two dice.

7. The method in accordance with Claim 5 including the step of awarding a progressive award in the event said score meets a predetermined criteria.

8. The method in accordance with Claim 5 including the step of awarding a progressive award if said score is at least one of the highest scores of a group of scores generated during a period of time.

9. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein if said wager is of a first amount, permitting play of said main game only and if said wager is of a second amount which exceeds said first amount, permitting play of said main game and bonus event.

10. The method in accordance with Claim 1 including the step of funding said bonus award from a portion of said wager.